REMARKS

Claims 13, 14, 43 and 53-60 are currently pending in the application, with claims 13, 43 and 60 being in independent form. By the March 26, 2004 Amendment, claims 11, 12, 29-42 and 44-52 were canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, new claims 53-60 were added, and claims 13 and 14 were amended.

The Official Communication dated August 1, 2006 states that the amended claim 13 does not include all the limitations of previous base claim 11, and that Applicant did not point out why amended claim 13 and new claim 60 are allowable over the cited art.

As acknowledged in the January 23, 2004 Office Action, the cited does not teach or suggest an optical pickup wherein the at least one light-receiving element formed on the stem consists of two pieces of two-divisional light-receiving elements respectively having dividing directions different from each other, and a height of one of the light-receiving elements is the same as a height of the semiconductor laser, while a height of another one of the light-receiving elements is different from the height of the semiconductor laser. Independent claim 13 addresses these features, as well as additional features, and for at least the above-stated reasons, claim 13 and the claims depending therefrom are patentable over the cited art.

Likewise, claim 60 is patentable for at least the reason that the cited does not teach or suggest causing light flux emitted from a light source in an emitting direction to travel along a first optical path through a uniaxial crystal plate to an objective lens in a form of a small spot to facilitate operation of recording, reproducing and/or erasing of optical information, and causing light ray flux reflected from the optical recording medium to travel to at least one light-receiving element through said uniaxial crystal plate and along a second optical path that is at least partially different from said first optical path, wherein said light source and said at least one light-receiving element are formed in a single stem, and wherein said at least one light-receiving element formed on said stem consists of two pieces of two-divisional light-receiving elements respectively having dividing directions different from each other, and a height of one of said light-receiving elements is the same as a height of said light source, while a height of another one of said light-receiving elements is different from said height of said light source.

Support for current claim 13, as well as for claim 60, can be found in the subject patent at, for example, column 18, lines 15-32.

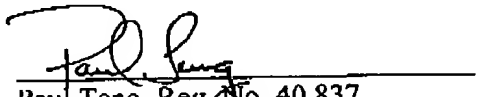
Independent claim 13, as it currently stands, does not include the limitations of: (a)

wherein said light ray flux emitted from said semiconductor laser is transmitted along said first optical path through said uniaxial crystal plate to said objective lens for focusing on the optical recording medium; and (b) wherein light ray flux reflected from the optical recording medium is transmitted through said uniaxial crystal plate and along said second optical path to said at least one light-receiving element. Such limitations are not necessary to distinguish the subject matter over the cited art, as currently understood. Further, current claim 13 already provides that the uniaxial crystal plate is disposed in the first optical path between the semiconductor laser and the objective lens.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this Response and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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